

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12-15, and 20 are pending. Claims 16-19 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Interview Summary

Applicants appreciate Examiner Sellman's participation in a telephonic interview with Applicants' representative, Thomas M. Spielbauer (Reg. No. 58,492), on December 19, 2007.

Examiner Sellman explained that the pending rejection was based in part on the belief that Ellis polymerized in a non-inert environment. In response, the following passages from Ellis were discussed: col. 16, lines 35-65; col. 18, lines 11-48; and Example 1 at col. 22, line 60 – col. 24, line 27, each describing polymerization in an inert environment.

Following this discussion, Examiner Sellman agreed that Ellis could not be relied upon for the positions set forth in the pending office action, and indicated that a new search would be required. In anticipation of that search, the following limitation from claim 1 was also discussed: "partially polymerizing said mixture to provide a partially polymerized mixture exhibiting a Brookfield viscosity of between 1,000 and 125,000 mPa·s at 20 °C and a degree of conversion of monomers to polymer of between 30 – 60 wt. % with respect to the initial mass of the monomers prior to polymerization."

Ellis' reported viscosities were discussed, including the temperature at which these viscosities were to be measured. For example, Applicants noted that the reported viscosity of Example 1 was 60,000 mPa·s; however, the measurement temperature was 180 °C.

With respect to Moon, Applicants noted that Example 1 described a partially polymerized mixture having a viscosity of 3000 cps; however, no degree of polymerization was given. Examples 10-12 were also discussed, wherein the procedure of Example 1 was used, and the Stage 1 conversion ranged from 15-30, suggesting that the degree of conversion of the partially polymerized mixture prior to Stage 1 was less than 15-30%.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-10, 12-15, and 20 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellis (U.S. Pat. No. 5,637,646) in view of Moon et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,174,931).

At the conclusion of the telephonic interview summarized above, Examiner Sellman stated that the rejection over Ellis in view of Moon would be withdrawn. Thus, Applicants believe this rejection is moot.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Examination and reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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